



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/535,108

10/05/2005

Hans-Kervin Bruins

GIL-16108

3576

7609 7590 11/15/2007  
RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK, LLP  
925 EUCLID AVENUE, SUITE 700  
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-1405

EXAMINER

SOROUGH, ALI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/15/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/535,108

Applicant(s)

BRUINS ET AL.

Examiner

Ali Soroush

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1616

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 21-27 recite "Use of ..." which renders the claims as not being directed to statutory subject matter.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9, 10, 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 9, 10, 14 and 18-20, the phrase "including" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "including"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 1616

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Applicant Claims
2. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
3. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue; and resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. (US Patent 6437002 B1, Published 08/20/2002) in view of Gardiner (Chasteberry (Vitex agnus castus), Longwood Herbal Task Force, Published 05/11/2000).

### ***Applicant Claims***

Applicant claims an insect repellent comprising extracts and/or parts of the plant Vitex agnus castus.

### ***Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)***

Ito et al. teaches a composition useful in treating skin diseases including acne vulgaris. The composition comprises a compound of formula 1 further comprising a moisturizer, an oil such as jojoba oil (which reads on instantly claimed essential oils of other plants), an antiseptic, an antioxidant, a perfume, an ultra-violet light absorbing/scattering agent such as titanium oxide, and a plant extract ingredient. Such a composition can be formulated for external application such as ointments, cream, and

Art Unit: 1616

lotions. (See abstract, column 11, Lines 17-24, Lines 28-33, Lines 54-56 and column 12, Lines 20-28, and Lines 54-56).

***Ascertainment of the Difference Between Scope the Prior Art and the Claims***

***(MPEP §2141.012)***

Ito et al. does not teach such a composition comprising an extract of Vitex agnus castus.

Gardiner teaches that active chemical constituents extracted from the leaves, flowers, and fruits of vitex agnus castus have utility in treating acne. (See page 3, 4, and 9).

***Finding of Prima Facie Obviousness Rational and Motivation***

***(MPEP §2142-2143)***

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Ito et al. and Gardiner. One would have been motivated because Ito et al. teaches that among the many other ingredients useful in treating acne, plant extracts may be added to the composition. Further, Gardiner teaches that the extracts from Vitex agnus castus are useful for treating acne. With regard to the applicants instantly claimed use of the composition as an insect repellent useful against ticks, mites, flies, tabanids, simuliids, creatopogonids, gnats, mosquitoes, fleas, lice, bugs, arthropods, and protection of plants or stored materials, is not given patentable weight in a product claim. The instantly claimed product is not structurally distinguishable over the prior art and therefore it would be implicit that such a product would also have the same ability

Art Unit: 1616

as a repellent. For the foregoing reasons the instantly claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Soroush whose telephone number is (571) 272-9925. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm E.S.T.

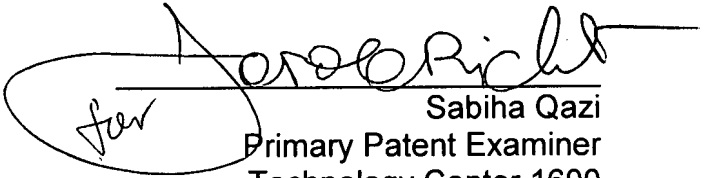
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on (571) 272-0646. The fax phone number For the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

Art Unit: 1616

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ali Soroush  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit: 1616

  
Sabiha Qazi  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1600